

ages and lock step grades, and doing what is right for children developmentally, we start to talk about putting a number as an age, and I realize that is there at 16 now, but just saying 18 will make a difference, I am not convinced that the logic and the argument is strong enough to say that this will truly make a difference. I would also ask what kind of difference other states have seen. You mentioned that there have been differences, can you give us any numbers, statistically significant numbers that tell us that, in fact, yes, it has made a difference? And not just numbers of kids who stay in school, but whether or not they left school at the age of 18 knowing any more than they might have leaving at 16. Can you respond to either of those?

SENATOR BYARS: All of this, and I apologize, Senator McKenzie, that this study came to me late. It was voluminous. I should have had it duplicated for all the members of the body. I did not. I sent a copy over to Senator Robinson's office because I knew he was very concerned about it. I would be glad to take this and to pull that information out of here to show it definitively. There are table, after table, after table showing this information and equating it. I think part of it relates also to what you have said in your original statement, how much of it is perception and how much of it is reality. How much of it is a sense by the people that are educating the students that it's helping, and how much of it is not. This is such new information. The University of Nebraska just completed this study. It was actually completed, I think, in December. We didn't get it, the Department of Education got it and then we got it last week. It gives the information that they have available, some of it up through 1992, some, it doesn't even include 1993, and it has the states that have changed their age range. It has given the information relative to what results they are experiencing in those states, and this was done by the people that did the study from the University of Nebraska, and I am sorry I can't be more definitive than that.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: All right, thank you. I guess I would have one other question, Senator Byars. Do you have those numbers you referred to, that 25 percent, from the State of Nebraska, from the Department of Education? Who provided that percent for you, and do you have any kind of breakdown in those numbers? Are we talking about 16-year olds, 17-year olds, 18-year olds across the state, where in the state, and are there reasons for leaving school identified in that?